**Extension of the Monopoly Cotton Scheme**

*184. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has asked the Central Government to extend the cotton scheme in Maharashtra, popularly known as Monopoly Cotton Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government have given its consent to extend the Scheme;

(c) if not, by when Government propose to give its consent;

(d) whether Government are aware that the Scheme has done excellent work in the area of elimination of middle-men and giving benefit to the cotton growers and in areas of price stability; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to extend the scheme in other States?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILE (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

**Statement**

The Government of Maharashtra had requested the Central Government to agree to further extend the Maharashtra Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme. In view of the request of the Government of Maharashtra, the Government of India have agreed to extend the scheme for a further period of 2 years i.e. till 30th June, 1998 with the stipulation that there will be no financial commitment on the part of the Government of India and that, in the event of cotton prices falling below Minimum Support Price (MSP) levels, no purchases of cotton will be made by the Cotton Corporation of India in Maharashtra during this period.

The Scheme has been in operation in the State of Maharashtra because the State Government has been keen to enforce monopoly procurement for cotton. No request has been received from any other State in this regard.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICKHAR: Madam, should I put both my supplementaries together?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anything. Just ask whatever you want to.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: My first supplementary is whether an export quota has been given to the Maharashtra Cotton Scheme. If it is given, will it be increased? The second part of the supplementary is, what are the support prices declared and how do they compare with the cost of production?

My second supplementary is, ...(*Interruptions*)... The Cotton-to-Cloth Price Nexus Committee ...(*Interruptions*). The price of cotton is less and the price of cloth is more. So, the people of the country must know what the price of cotton is and what the price of cloth is. I want to know whether the Nexus Committee, the Cotton-to-Cloth Price Link Committee, will be re-established and some interested Members of Parliament will be taken on it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He was more interested in putting the questions than in the reply. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Madam, ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Your can send him the reply in writing.

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**WRITTEN ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTIONS**

**Cotton Technology Mission**

*185. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 47 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th November, 1996, and state:

(a) whether Government are